



# Working Landscapes Regional Collaboration Forum

Transferring lessons learned about public-private partnerships and landowner-led conservation efforts.

The purpose of the Working Landscapes Regional Collaboration Forum is to provide an opportunity to share the Partners for Conservation model of landowner-led cooperative conservation. This forum served as an opportunity to share lessons learned locally as well as nationally by providing a positive venue for starting conversations that might lead to enhanced networks. This model could foster the establishment of new landscape-scale collaborations while supporting those that are already operational.

**Susanville, California**

February 24 & 25, 2015

## Overview

The Working Landscapes Regional Collaboration Forum emphasized the value of landowner-led collaborations and increased communication between private and public partners. Through stories from landowners involved in collaborative conservation efforts, the forum transferred lessons learned about public-private partnerships and landowner-led conservation efforts.

Support was strong for the development of a landowner-led regional collaboration network.



## Workshop Approach

On February 24th and 25th, 2015 the first Working Landscapes Regional Collaboration Forum was held in Susanville, California. Attendees were landowners, ranch managers, conservation organization representatives, and government agency staff.

The workshop guided conversations about the opportunities and challenges for collaboration in the region through facilitated small and large group discussions.

Focus: identify common themes, opportunities and challenges to partnerships with agencies and ranching operations on working landscapes in the region.

## Workshop Outcomes

The group identified that collaboration needs to be framed by larger societal issues such as enhancing ecosystem diversity, protecting water (quality and quantity), and growing the economy. Most of the collaborative attributes shared were related to having the right people at the table and communicating effectively in an atmosphere of trust and understanding.

### Collaboration Works

Successful conservation collaborations are desirable and can create more efficient and effective deployment of resources. This can create “triple wins” for natural resource conservation, agricultural economies, and rural community sustainability. Some of the benefits identified were:

- An increased understanding between diverse groups
- Aligning needs provides mutual benefits for landowners, wildlife, and the larger human community
- Allows for a more effective allocation of limited resources
- Provides a model or mechanism by which extremely contentious issues could be addressed more effectively

### Challenges to Collaboration

Collaboration requires a shift in paradigm as well as the integration of diverse stakeholder concerns. Collaboration involves developing trust, which leads to productive relationships. Challenges to collaboration include:

- Insufficient resources including time, money and people
- Rapid change and turnover and/or resistance to change by individuals and agencies
- Lack of engagement by respected and trusted individuals
- Ineffective communication between individuals, groups and agencies
- Requires an investment of time without rapid returns



## Tools and Techniques

### Build Momentum

- Share Your Story – Sharing collaboration knowledge and experience in a variety of outlets that provide outreach and education to partners, peers, youth, public officials and the general public
- Create an Inventory of Success Stories-This inventory could be used as a methodology to solve landscape-scale issues, improve ecosystem management, and provide economic sustainability at both a regional or national scale

Traditional boundaries can be crossed through landowner-partner relationships. This provides a unique opportunity to work collaboratively on challenging issues.

- Celebrate Success-Advance awareness by recognizing successful collaboration projects and conservation accomplishments through incentives and awards
- Support state and federal programs that could build capacity for collaborative groups and assist with conservation efforts such as the Farm Bill and Sage Grouse Initiative

### Build Relationships

- Invite- Inviting elected officials and their staff to meetings and field days on the land can build support for programs and engage leaders
- Engage-Attempt to integrate and educate the many voices on the landscape and incorporate different approaches to collaboration
- Targeted Outreach- A “collaborative conservation ambassador” program could serve as a bridge between landowners and agencies. By sharing collaboration knowledge, stories, and experience they could also ease transition through agency turnover
- Mentor Peers -Incorporate not only discussions of successful collaboration, but also challenges and cases where collaboration did not work as opportunities to learn in peer-to-peer mentoring where collaboration did not work as opportunities to learn in peer-to-peer mentoring

Supporting collaboration throughout the SONEC region could be an important part of addressing current and future landscape-level concerns.

### A Regional Collaborative Network

Integrating these suggested tools and techniques through a landowner-led regional network could provide shared resources, experience, and expertise.

Momentum created through collaborative success can be transferred through a regional collaborative network incorporating stories, expertise sharing, ambassadors and peer to peer mentorship.



February 24 & 25, 2015

# The "SONEC" Region

## A Working Landscape in the Intermountain West

SONEC consists of intermountain basins in southern Oregon, northeast California and northwest Nevada in the Great Basin.

SONEC covers approximately 10% of the Great Basin, and encompasses 6.13 million acres. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the landscape is private; thirty-nine percent (39%) is federally owned; four percent (4%) is under state ownership; and, two percent (2%) is tribal/other



A successful public-private partnership -Susie Creek Restoration



Susie Creek 1991



Susie Creek 2012



Susie Creek 2013

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## Forum Sponsors

**Partners for Conservation** is a national landowner-led organization, which communicates and collaborates on conservation partnerships for working landscapes to benefit the communities that depend on them for both present and future generations.  
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